



SARDIS SECONDARY SCHOOL

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

As you are aware, Term 1 report cards were made available on November 24th on the MyEducation parent and student portals. For many of our students, the end of term is an opportunity to celebrate their efforts and achievement. For others, it is an opportunity to discuss areas of improvement, set objectives and plan new ways to improve achievement. As we have now completed the first term of the school year, we look forward to students making significant gains in their academic progress in the second half of this semester.

On a related note, as we approach the winter months, Sun, Ski or Family vacations are an item that I have encountered at both middle and secondary schools. Often families have vacation times that do not match with summer months, Christmas Holidays and other school break times. Each year we are approached by parents who wish to take their child out of school for extended periods of time. We do not have a procedure for granting students a "leave of absence". Rather it is assumed that parents will make decisions in the best interests of their own children. We are respectful of the fact that many families have relatives far away, or value spending uninterrupted family time together. Difficulties arise, however, when parents wish to have some sort of reassurance that their child will not be "behind" in their work when they return. If your child misses school for extended periods of time, he or she will be behind in classroom work. Students may well have other cultural and travel experiences, which contribute to their overall development, but the many varied daily classroom activities they will miss cannot be duplicated through worksheets or take-home assignments. If you are in this situation, we will try to provide information either beforehand or afterwards about assignments and work that needs to be done. Parents usually prefer to request work beforehand, however, teachers cannot always anticipate where their class might be in the unit/curriculum being covered. Teachers are better able to inform the students upon their return to school about what was actually covered. The stronger the student, the greater the possibility that she/he will be able to complete missed work and understand concepts from the reading materials and missed instruction. While it is not the responsibility of the teacher to provide work for students who are away on vacation, they will try to provide some support. Staff will do what they can, as best they can, considering the situation.

In addition to the concerns above, this year there is the added concern of taking a holiday outside of Canada. Please see the attachment for information on necessary steps to take upon return to Canada for vaccinated and unvaccinated students.

In closing, a reminder to parents that attendance requirements for all students during the **Assessment and Report Week from January 24 to 28, 2022** will be the same as previous years. In keeping with the Ministry of Education school calendar regulations and the Assessment and Reporting Week Initiative in the Chilliwack School District, **most students will be required to attend and participate in Assessment and Reporting activities throughout this entire week.**

Sincerely,

Lynnet Schramm
Acting Principal